Message Text

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PHY OSCI EG

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE INFORMAL VISIT BY MRS. SADAT TO US

- 1. I GATHER THAT MME SADAT PLANS TO TRAVEL TO MEXICO CITY DURING THE SUMMER TO ATTEND THE UN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD THERE JUNE 19-JULY 2. ALTHOUGH NOTHING FORMAL HAS BEEN SAID TO ME ABOUT HER TRIP, THIS RAISES THE QUESTION WHETHER WE SHOULD CONSIDER INVITING MME SADAT TO MAKE AN INFORMAL VISIT TO THE US AFTER THE MEETING.
- 2. OUR EARLIER HOPE HAD BEEN, OF COURSE, THAT PRESIDENT SADAT COULD MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE US IN THE COMING SUMMER. MME SADAT WOULD HAVE ACCOMPANIED HIM. (SO WOULD MOST OF THE CHILDREN, WHO WERE EAGERLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SUCH A TRIP.) THE SUSPENSION OF THE STEP-BY-STEP NEGOTIATIONS PRECLUDES, FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST, RESCHEDULING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. I KNOW HE REMAINS INTERESTED IN GOING, BUT ONLY AT A TIME WHEN IT IS POLITICALLY FEASIBLE FOR HIM TO DO SO. ONCE OUR MIDDLE EAST POLICY REASSESSMENT IS COMPLETED, WE WILL HOPEFULLY AGAIN BE ABLE TO WORK ACTIVELY FOR SOME KIND OF A SETTLEMENT. IF THIS SUCCEEDS, THE PRESIDENT WILL CERTAINLY RECONSIDER THE TRIP. BUT THERE IS NO WAY OF KNOWING NOW WHEN THE SERIES OF EVENTS TO DO SO WILL TAKE PLACE. AT BEST, I WOULD THINK IT MIGHT TAKE THREE, FOUR OR MORE MONTHS.

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3. ASSUMING THIS IS THE CASE, IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL

TO TAKE SOME INFORMAL SOUNDINGS AS TO WHETHER MME SADAT MIGHT, WHILE ON THE AMERICAN CONTINENT, BE INTERESTED IN PAYING AN INFORMAL VISIT TO THE US, SHE IS, OF COURSE, KEENLY INTERESTED IN REHABILITATIVE CENTERS SIMILAR TO THE FAITH AND HOPE SOCIETY OF WHICH SHE IS THE ORGANIZER AND PRIME MOVER. EARLIER THIS YEAR SHE SENT ME SEVERAL LETTERS LISTING REHABILITATION HOSPITALS AND CENTERS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE US WHICH SHE HOPED MIGHT BE INCLUDED ON HER OFFICIAL ITINERARY. THESE INCLUDE INSTITUTIONS

IN CHICAGO, DOWNEY (CALIFORNIA), HOUSTON AND NEW YORK. SHE HAD ALSO BEEN ADVISED TO VISIT DISNEY WORLD, ORLANDO, FLORIDA BECAUSE OF ITS OUTSTANDING FACILITITES FOR HANDICAPPED VISITORS TO SEE THE ATTRACTIONS. DR. TRAUB OF HEW, WHO WILL BECOME PROJECT MANAGER FOR THE FAITH AND HOPE SOCIETY BUILDING PROJECT AND WHO HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN A CONSULTANT FOR MME SADAT, INFORMS ME THAT VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS IN THE ABOVE CITIES ARE ALREADY ALERTED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT BY MME SADAT AT SOME FUTURE TIME. CONCEIVABLY, THEREFORE, PROVIDED THE PRESIDENT AGREES, SHE MIGHT STILL BE INTERESTED IN A TRIP TO THESE INSTALLATIONS. NOR WOULD SUCH A TRIP EXCLUDE HER FROM COMING ON SOME FUTURE OFFICIAL VISIT.

4. I AGAIN EMPHASIZE THAT ABSOLUTELY NOTHING HAS BEEN SAID TO MME SADAT ABOUT SUCH A POSSIBLE VISIT. UNLESS YOU PERCEIVE OBJECTION, HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO BE AUTHORIZED INFORMALLY REPEAT INFORMALLY TO EXPLORE WHETHER SHE MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SUCH AN INVITATION. TO AVOID EMBARRASSING HER AND US SHOULD THE PRESIDENT THINK IT UNDESIRABLE, I COULD INITIALLY DO THIS THROUGH FAHMY AND OR AFAF FAHMY.

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